



RCE/1745

PTO/SB/30 (08-03)  
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Request  
For  
Continued Examination (RCE)  
Transmittal

Address to:  
Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Application Number	09/415,467
Filing Date	October 8, 1999
First Named Inventor	Myron J. BRUDNICKI
Art Unit	1745
Examiner Name	Julian A. Mercado
Attorney Docket Number	19441-0027

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TC 1700

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114 Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

a. ☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

i. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Rely Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_

ii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

b. ☒ Enclosed

i. ☒ Amendment/Reply

iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/ Declaration(s)

iv. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

2. Miscellaneous

a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)

b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. Fees

The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to

a. ☐ Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

i. ☐ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)

ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)

iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$ 770.00 enclosed

c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

**WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.**

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED			
Name (Print/Type)	Daniel J. Warren	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	34,272
Signature		Date	December 22, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.	
Name (Print/Type)	Daniel J. Warren
Signature	
Date	December 22, 2003

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Patents  
Atty. Docket No. 19441.0027  
Customer No. 29052

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

**Brudnicki, Myron J.**

Serial No. **09/415,467**

Filed: **October 8, 1999**

For: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
FUEL CELL PACKAGING**

Group Art Unit: **1745**

Examiner: **Mercado, Julian A.**

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Final Office Action mailed on September 30, 2003 and the Advisory Action of November 19, 2003, the Applicant has the following amendments and remarks:

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

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I hereby certify that this Amendment and Response is being sent via First Class Mail to the Commissioner for Patent, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 22, 2003.

Daniel J. Warren- Reg. No. 34,272

## AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for fuel cell packaging comprising the steps of:

providing a fuel cell receptacle with a plurality of manifolds;

providing a plurality of fuel cells, the fuel cells including top and bottom sides ~~and~~ with respective ports; and

positioning the fuel cells within the fuel cell receptacle in a stack such that both the top and bottom ~~sides~~ ports of each of the fuel cells are in direct contact with the receptacle and each of the ports is interfaced with one of the manifolds.

2. (Original) A method for fuel cell packaging as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ports are positioned on corners of the fuel cells.

3. (Original) A method for fuel cell packaging as a claimed in claim 1, wherein the ports are positioned on both sides of the fuel cells.

4. (Original) A method for fuel cell packaging as claimed in claim 1, wherein the positioning step comprises positioning the fuel cells in a staggered configuration.

5. (Original) A method for fuel cell packaging as claimed in claim 1, wherein the positioning step comprises positioning the fuel cells in a spiral configuration.

6. (Currently amended) An apparatus for fuel cell packaging comprising:  
a receptacle including a plurality of port interfaces, the receptacle being shaped to receive a stack of fuel cells with ~~ports on opposing top and bottom sides~~ with respective ports of the fuel cells such that the port interface directly contacts each of the ports providing individual fluidic connections between each of the ports and the port interfaces that they respectively contact.

7. (Original) An apparatus for fuel cell packaging as claimed in claim 6, wherein the receptacle is shaped to receive the fuel cells in a staggered stack.

8. (Original) An apparatus for fuel cell packaging as claimed in claim 6, wherein the receptacle is shaped to receive the fuel cells in a spiral stack.

9. (Original) An apparatus for fuel cell packaging as claimed in claim 6, wherein each of the port interfaces includes an o-ring seal.

10. - 22. (Cancelled).

23. (New) A method for fuel cell packaging comprising the steps of:  
providing a fuel cell receptacle with a plurality of manifolds;  
providing a plurality of fuel cells, the fuel cells including top and bottom sides and ports; and  
positioning the fuel cells within the fuel cell receptacle in a stack in a spiral configuration such that both the top and bottom sides of each of the fuel cells are in direct contact with the receptacle and each of the ports is interfaced with one of the manifolds.

24. (New) An apparatus for fuel cell packaging comprising:

a receptacle including a plurality of port interfaces, the receptacle being shaped to receive a spiral stack of fuel cells with ports on opposing sides of the fuel cells such that the port interface directly contacts each of the ports providing individual fluidic connections between each of the ports and the port interfaces that they respectively contact.